

Volume 2, Issue 15
April 21, 2006



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Department of Elder
Affairs online at
[www.state.ia.us/elder
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Under the Dome

This week has been quieter than most as legislative leadership in the House and Senate worked out final agreements. Both the House and Senate gaveled in and gaveled out on Thursday, but for the most part lawmakers went home on Wednesday. Discussions are being had by legislative leadership and the Governor related to final negotiations – expect little floor debate on bills that have reached agreement behind closed doors. The focus of much of the conversation is related to education. There are a number of bills that are on a “motion to retain” as final compromises are agreed to.

We can not predict what the final agreement will be for the Department’s FY 07 appropriation or at what level specific programs, such as the Case Management Program for Frail Elders (CMPFE) will be funded at. Currently, we believe the appropriation for CMPFE will be 1.3 million with no language related to a cap of a FTE.

For those interested, once negotiations are finalized, look for a Senate amendment to the Health and Human Services Appropriations bill ([HF 2734](#)) on the legislative web site at www.legis.state.ia.us.

Personal Needs Allowance Clears Senate

On Tuesday, the Senate debated [HF 2319](#), which increases the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for institutionalized persons enrolled in Medicaid from \$30.00 a month to \$50.00 a month. The bill received a vote of 48 in favor, 0 opposed. The bill now moves to the Governor.

Brain Injury Services Program

Also on Tuesday, [HF 2772](#), which creates the Brain Injury Services Program passed the senate by a vote of 48 in favor, 0 opposed. The bill now moves to the Governor.

Nutrition Programs Assisting Older Adults

As more Iowans live to older ages, demands are increasing on food and nutrition assistance programs that address hunger, or “food insecurity”, and poor diets among older adults. The federal government provides about \$1 billion annually for all food and nutrition assistance programs for older adults, the largest number being funded through the Older Americans Act (OAA). OAA provides the congregate and home delivered meal programs which reach only 6 percent to 7 percent of

the people who need them. In contrast, the federal government's Special Supplemental Nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) alone is funded at almost \$5 billion and now reaches 50 percent of eligible women, infants, and children. Both the OAA nutrition program and WIC began in the early 1970's but the WIC program has received significant increases in funding, whereas the OAA program has not. The lack of additional funding for OAA nutrition programs serving older adults is contributing program limitations and access issues for individuals needing these valuable services. In addition to the Administration on Aging nutrition programs, many of the federal nutrition programs serving older adults are under the auspices of either the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Agriculture. Nutrition programs are described below.

Reference: Wellman, N. "Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs for Older People". Journal of the American Society of Aging. Generations Vol. XXVIII, No 3, Fall 2004.

Congregate meals are offered at community centers such as senior dining centers. For many participants, the meal provides more than 50 percent of their total food for the day. Many eat more and more nutritious food at the meal site than they would in their own home. In addition to the hot meal, congregate sites provide opportunities for socialization and the chance to get involved in the community. During 2005, 77,796

individuals participated in congregate meals. This OAA nutrition program is administered by the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agencies on Aging. Program information can be obtained from the Area Agencies on Aging. Contact information can be found at

www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/aaa/aaacontact.html

Home delivered meals are delivered to frail homebound older adults who are unable to travel to a congregate site. Volunteers who deliver meals provide social interaction. In 2005, this program served 16,251 clients. This OAA nutrition program is administered by the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agencies on Aging. Program information can be obtained from the Area Agencies on Aging. Contact information can be found at

www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/aaa/aaacontact.html

Medicaid Elderly Waiver provides a variety of services to assist older adults remain living in their own homes. The nutrition component of this program provides home delivered meals, nutritional supplements and nutrition counseling by a licensed dietitian. The program is funded by 1/3 State and 2/3 Federal match from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The Iowa Department of Human Service, Department of Elder Affairs and 13 Area Agencies on Aging administer the program. In 2005, 8,000 individuals were referred to the program through

Caring for an Older
Iowan? Bookmark
the Iowa Family
Caregiver website:
[www.iowafamily
caregiver.org/](http://www.iowafamilycaregiver.org/)

Case Management Program for the Frail Elderly. . Program information can be obtained from the Area Agencies on Aging. Contact information can be found at www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/aaa/aaacontact.html.

Food Assistance Program

(formerly know as the Food Stamp Program) under USDA provides electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards to approximately 17 percent of the eligible low-income older Iowans. This compares to 30 percent of eligible older adults participate nationally. As of March 2006, 12,563 older Iowans receive average monthly benefit of \$72.19 for one person household. The application process has been simplified. Information and assistance is available by calling 1-877-YES-FOOD or contact Angela Hunt, DHS, at 515-281-8294.

Iowa Food Stamp Nutrition

Education is funded by the Food Assistance Program and coordinated by the Iowa Department of Public Health. A component of the nutrition education specifically for older adults is called the Chef Charles Club. This provides a monthly nutrition newsletter and education to 3000 congregate meal participants. Program materials can be accessed at www.idph.state.ia.us/nutritionnetwork/chef_charles.asp

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) under USDA provides healthy food to 3,400 needy Seniors in Polk, Dallas, Boone, Jasper, Warren, Madison,

Wapello and Clarke counties. Iowa is one of 33 states with this program. Targeted populations are older adults with incomes less than 130 percent of poverty. Others (some mothers, infants and children) qualify at higher incomes, less than 185 percent poverty. Food packages are tailored to the nutritional needs of participants and consists of dry milk; instant potatoes; rice or macaroni; cereal; peanut butter or beans; canned fruits, juice and vegetables; and cheese. Food is either picked up at the site or delivered to the participant. Program information can be obtained by calling (515) 286-3655.

Iowa Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

is administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture with assistance of the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agencies on Aging. The program provides seniors with fresh, nutritious, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from farmers' markets. The USDA allocates food dollars and the state administrative dollars to run the program. For 2006, the program will provide \$28 in SFMNP vouchers to 22,000 low income Iowans aged 60 and older. The program has grown each year since it started in 2001. Income eligibility is \$18,130 for an individual and \$24,420 for a couple. Program guidelines will remain that same at 2005. The Area Agencies on Aging will be distributing the vouchers around June 1. For additional information contact Margaret Long at

Margaret.long@idals.state.ia.us or local Area Agency on Aging.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) assists adult day service programs serve nutritious meals and snacks to eligible adults. Meals must meet nutrient requirements. The CACFP meal reimbursement rates vary from a minimal daily reimbursement for private pay individuals to higher rates for moderate and low-income individuals. For the 2005 fiscal year, 14 Iowa adult day service programs, approved as CACFP centers, received funds ranging from \$1000 to \$44,000 for a total of \$241, 000. This USDA program is administered by the Iowa Department of Education. For additional information contact Rod Bakken at rod.bakken@iowa.gov.

Other food assistance programs

The Iowa SHARE is an organization committed to helping others through a self-help approach. The program provides a quality

monthly food package at a reduced cost in return for volunteering two hours a month. Anyone can participate. Food stamps/food assistance can be used to purchase the food package. For program information call 1-800-344-1107 or visit there web site www.shareiowa.com/

Food Banks are an additional resource to address food insecurity. The Second Harvest web site has a food bank locator at www.secondharvest.org. An addition source of information on food banks and food pantries has been compiled by the Iowa Legal Aid and can be accessed at www.iowalegalaid.org/lawhelp/IA/index.cfm.

Additional information and resources on food security, food insecurity and hunger in Iowa can be accessed on the Iowa State University web page <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/hunger/>

For more information, the Iowa Legislature General Assembly homepage is www.legis.state.ia.us

In the Legislature

The following is a listing of the bills the department is monitoring. If you would like more information on a particular bill, click on its number and you will be directed to the Iowa General Assembly's online bill book.

House Files

[HF 590 Senior Crossbow Hunting](#)
By: Committee on Natural Resources
Signed by the Governor

[HF 2002 Senior Living Trust Fund](#)
By: Raecker and Kuhn

[HF 2022 Cigarette Taxes](#) By: Tomenga and Olson R.

[HF 2026 Non-Profit Tax Exemption](#)
By: Paulsen

[HF 2045 SS-Pension Income Phase Out](#) By: Ways and Means (Successor to [HSB 502](#)) Passed House to Senate

[HF 2049 Senior Property Tax Freeze](#)
By: Butka

[HF 2055 Long Term Care Deduction](#)
By: Frevert

[HF 2147](#) **Temporary Conservators**
By: *Huser, Swaim, Gaskill and Petersen* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2171](#) **Elder Fishers** By: *Committee on Natural Resources (Successor to [HF 2039](#))* **Passed Senate to the Governor**

[HF 2186](#) **Health Related Appropriations** By: *Wendt (Companion to [SF 2119](#))*

[HF 2215](#) **Rule Regulatory Analysis**
By: *Eichhorn* **Placed on Calendar under Unfinished Business**

[HF 2238](#) **Federal Block Grants** By: *Committee on Appropriations (Formerly [HSB 563](#))* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2270](#) **Domestic Violence Brochure** By: *Ford*

[HF 2319](#) **Personal Needs Allowance**
By: *Committee on Human Resources (Successor to [HF 2057](#))* **Passed Senate to Governor**

[HF 2347](#) **Health Care Transformation Act** By: *Committee on Human Resources Successor to [HF 2042](#), Sub for [SF 2051](#)* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2363](#) **Veterans at Health Care Facilities** By: *Committee on Veterans Affairs (Successor to [HSB 574](#))* **Passed Senate and Sent to the Governor**

[HF 2383](#) **Rent Reimbursement** By: *Struyk, Huser, Dandekar, & Mertz*

[HF 2424](#) **Emergency Rule Making**
By: *Administrative Rules Committee* **Passed House to Senate, See [SF 2334](#)**

[HF 2464](#) **Nursing Student Background Checks** By: *Committee on Human Resources (Successor to [HSB 656](#))* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2492](#) **MR Case Payments** By: *Committee on Human Resources (Successor to [HF 2021](#))* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2501](#) **Apartment Assessment** By: *Struyk, Huser, & McCarthy*

[HF 2506](#) **Identity Theft Passports** By: *Commerce, Regulations & Labor (Successor to [HF 2247](#))* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2553](#) **Senior Property Assessments** By: *May*

[HF 2588](#) **Health Facility Employee Checks** By: *Committee on Human Resources (Formerly [HSB 677](#))* **Signed by the Governor**

[HF 2593](#) **Executive Lobbist Rules**
By: *Committee on State Government (Formerly [HSB 534](#))* **Passed Senate to Governor**

[HF 2630](#) **State Spending** By: *Eichhorn et al.*

[HF 2652](#) **No Contact Orders** By: *Committee on Judiciary (Successor to [HSB 718](#))* **Passed Senate to Governor**

[HF 2698](#) **Customer Council Decisions**
By: *Committee on State Government (Successor to [HSB 624](#))* **Placed on Calendar under Unfinished Business**

[HF 2706](#) **Private Donor Records** By: *Committee on State Government (Successor to [HSB 687](#))* **Passed House to Senate, Sub for [SF 2270](#)**

[HF 2716](#) **Malpractice** By: *Committee on Judiciary (Successor to [HSB 676](#))* **Passed House to Senate, See [SF 2356](#)**

[HF 2734](#) **House Appropriations Bill**
By: *Committee on Appropriations (Successor to [HSB 764](#))* **Passed House to Senate**

[HF 2742](#) **Probate and Trust Codes**
By: *Committee on Judiciary (Successor to [HSB 720](#))* **Passed Senate to Governor**



Contact your legislators

Go to <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/> to find the names of the legislators who represent you. Or for a complete listing of legislators and leadership, use the following link: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/LegislatorInfo.aspx>

Senate Switchboard:
515-281-3371

House Switchboard:
515-281-3221

Mailing Address:
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA
50319

Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor
State Capitol
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515-281-5211

Legislative Update

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[HF 2746](#) **State Employee Vehicles** By: Committee on Government Oversight (Successor to [HF 849](#))

[HF 2752](#) **State Bidding Requirements** By: Committee on Government Oversight (Successor to [HSB 508](#)) **Placed on Calendar**

[HF 2772](#) **Brain Injury Services** By: Committee on Appropriations (Formerly [HF 2561](#)) (Formerly [HF 2325](#)) **Passed Senate to Governor**

[HF 2780](#) **MH/MR/DD/BI Services** By: Committee on Appropriations (Formerly [HF 2616](#)) (Formerly [HF 2338](#)) **Passed House to Senate**

[HF 2787](#) **Child and Dependent Credit** By: Committee on Ways and Means (Successor to [HSB 774](#))

Senate Files

[SF 341](#) **Long-term Living System** By: Human Resources (Formerly [SSB 1272](#)) **Senate Defers (4/28/05)**

[SF 355](#) **Medicare Part D Task Force** By: Human Resources (Formerly [SSB 1204](#))

[SF 416](#) **Cigarette Tax and Property Tax** By: Ways and Means (Formerly [SSB 1322](#))

[SF 2034](#) **Suicide Prevention Office** By: Ragan & Bolkcom

[SF 2037](#) **Military Pension Exemption** By: Miller

[SF 2038](#) **Disabled Veterans Homestead** By: Lamberti

[SF 2040](#) **Long-term Care Credit** By: Miller

[SF 2044](#) **Pension Income Phase Out** By: Tinsman et al. (Companion to [HF 2045](#))

[SF 2062](#) **Senior Living Trust** Appropriations By: Bolkcom et al.

[SF 2070](#) **LIHEAP Supplemental** By: Hatch et al.

[SF 2081](#) **Veterans Cemetery** By: Stewert

[SF 2082](#) **Veterans Home** By: Ragan
[SF 2113](#) **Property Tax Reform** By: Angelo et al.

[SF 2119](#) **Health Related Appropriations** By: Warnstadt

[SF 2124](#) **Nutrition and Grant Exercise Grant Program** By: Committee on Human Resources (Successor to [SSB 3012](#)) **Signed by the Governor**

[SF 2202](#) **Nursing Facility Tax Assessments** By: Beall

[SF 2231](#) **State Employees Sick Leave** By: Committee on State Government (Successor to [SSB 3138](#)) **Signed by the Governor**

[SF 2239](#) **Personal Needs Allowance** By: Committee on Human Resources (Successor to [SF 2048](#))

[SF 2253](#) **Standings Bill** By: Committee on Judiciary (Successor to [SSB 144](#)) **Passed Senate and House to the Governor**

[SF 2316](#) **Administrative Rules Filings** By: Committee on State Government (Successor to [SSB 3083](#), and [SF 2216](#)) **Signed by the Governor**

[SF 2327](#) **Arrest Warrant Information** By: Committee on Judiciary (Successor to [SSB 3152](#)) **Passed House to Governor**

[SF 2332](#) **Iowa Food Policy Council** By: Committee on State Government (Successor to [SSB 3246](#)) **Passed Senate to House**

[SF 2334](#) **Governor Emergency Rules** By: Committee on State Government (Successor to [SF 2230](#)) **Placed on Calendar under Unfinished Business, FM: Kibbie**

[SF 2338](#) **Indirect Costs** By: *Committee on Government Oversight (Successor to [SSB 3118](#))* Passed House to the Governor

[SF 2367](#) **Prosthetic Device Coverage** By: *Committee on Commerce (Successor to [SSB 1281](#))* Referred back to Committee

[SSB 3041](#) **Governor Senior Living Trust** By: *Governor's Budget Bill*

Upcoming Events and other Opportunities!

Mark Your Calendars...

Annual Governor's Conference on Aging & Photo Contest

May 22 and 23, 2006

www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/living/conferences.html#GCOA

Connecting with Experience: Iowa Governor's Conference on 50+ Workers

May 24, 2006

Information available at:

www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/living/conferences.html#CESC

Register online: www.cishrm.org/

Iowa Senior Olympics

June 8th through 11th, 2006

<http://iowaseniorolympics.com/>

Elder Rights Conference

October 9 and 10, 2006

www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/living/conferences.html#ERC

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The Legislative Update is distributed electronically during the legislative session by the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs for informational purposes only. Recipients of this update are encouraged to share it with others.

The current issue can also be found on the department's webpage, www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/, under the "What's New at DEA" heading. Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.

If you are interested in receiving or discontinuing the legislative updates, contact Erin Haafke by email at erin.haafke@iowa.gov.

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Our Mission:

To provide advocacy, educational, and prevention services to older Iowans so they can find Iowa a healthy, safe, productive, and enjoyable place to live and work.